

MINUTES OF THE HOUSTON COUNTY COMMISSION

JULY 14, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioner Melinda McClendon, Acting Chairperson, Commissioner Curtis Harvey, Commissioner Doug Siquefield, Commissioner Jackie Battles, Gary Sherrer, County Attorney, Barkley Kirkland, County Engineer, and Nancy Bristow, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

ABSENT: Chairman Mark S. Culver and William J. Dempsey, Chief Administrative Officer

Melinda S. McClendon, Acting Chairperson, called the 10:00 A.M. meeting to order, declared a quorum present, and welcomed everyone. She reported Chairman Culver and Bill Dempsey were attending the Annual NACO Conference. Acting Chairperson McClendon welcomed Mr. Mike Weber, and members of Troop #38 of First United Methodist Church. She reported they were working on their Citizenship and Communication Badges, and would be taking notes during the meeting. Rev. Clint McBroom, Pastor, Highland Park United Methodist Church, gave the invocation. Commissioner Curtis Harvey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Commissioner Battles seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.

Announcements and Public Comments from Chairperson and Commission

Acting Chairperson McClendon reported everyone saw on the news that the Saints Apartments burned last night. She stated she could not tell what portion burned because of all of the smoke and she had ridden by to see it was the house on the back side of Powell and Foster Street. The Acting Chairperson stated it was pretty much gone. She stated it was a blessing there was no one in the building, and she felt this was the beginning phase of an eminent demolition.

Regular Agenda

1. Request to appoint Commissioner Albert Kirkland to fill an unexpired term on SARCOA Board.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to appoint Commissioner Albert Kirkland to fill an unexpired term on the SARCOA Board. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Acting Chairperson McClendon reported the person who had previously held the position had resigned and she reported this was not a full term. She pointed out it was felt since Commissioner Kirkland is a senior commissioner, it was appropriate for him to be appointed. Acting Chairperson McClendon called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Request from the Town of Cottonwood for assistance with building a parking lot on the south side of Houston Street, the first phase of the expansion of Bruner Park – Mayor Ken Hamilton.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the Town of Cottonwood's request for assistance with building a parking lot on the south side of Houston Street, the first phase of the expansion of Bruner Park. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Mrs. McClendon reported Mayor Ken

Hamilton was present to answer any questions. Commissioner Siquefield thanked Mayor Hamilton for coming and he stated they were doing good things in Cottonwood. Acting Chairperson McClendon reported this is a Wiregrass Foundation grant. Commissioner Battles asked how many phases there were on the project? Mayor Hamilton reported approximately 4 phases. He stated the location is sitting between Highway 53 and Highway 55 and they do not have any appropriate parking, and the parking lot would be the first phase. He stated the property is on Houston Street across from the school. The mayor pointed out the other 3 phases would include expanding the chain link fence, building restrooms and a pavilion. He thanked the commission for all of their help thus far. He stated they have been fortunate to get a Wiregrass Foundation grant for this project. Acting Chairperson McClendon called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Request from Lucy Volunteer Fire Department for in-kind services for a new fire station to be located on Truitt Road to include removal of trees including stumpage, fill dirt, and grading for construction pad.

Commissioner Siquefield made a motion to approve the request from Lucy Volunteer Fire Department for in-kind services for a new fire station to be located on Truitt Road to include removal of trees including stumpage, fill dirt, and grading for construction pad. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Acting Chair McClendon called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request from MidSouth Bancorporation for Houston County to accept a property donation of Old Dixie Plant Food, and to authorize the County Attorney and Chairman to prepare and execute the necessary documents.

Commissioner Battles made a motion to approve the request from MidSouth Bancorporation for Houston County to accept a property donation of Old Dixie Plant Food, and to authorize the County Attorney and Chairman to prepare and execute the necessary documents. Commissioner Harvey seconded the motion. Commissioner Battles asked Attorney Sherrer if they would check to make sure all the legal requirements are met, and there would not be an environmental study done. Attorney Sherrer reported to his knowledge there would be no environmental study done. Mrs. McClendon reported this building would be used to house cars and equipment from Road and Bridge and the garbage cans for the automated garbage system. It was pointed out the county would clean up around the building. The Acting Chair called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Request from Revenue Commissioner to approve the annual list of 2013 Insolvents, Errors and Taxes in Litigation, and Uncollected Insolvents and Litigations for previous years.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the Revenue Commissioner's request to approve the annual list of 2013 Insolvents, Errors and Taxes in Litigation, and Uncollected Insolvents and Litigations for previous years. Commissioner Siquefield seconded the motion. Acting Chair McClendon called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached in Minute Book)

6. Request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT (FHWA) to replace cross-drains on County Road #8 between Springhill Road and Pitcher Hart Road.

Commissioner Sinuefield made a motion to approve the request to enter into an Agreement with ALDOT (FHWA) to replace cross drains on County Road #8 between Springhill Road and Pitcher Hart Road. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Acting Chair McClendon reported this was discussed at length on Thursday, and the project has been completed. Engineer Kirkland reported for the most part the project is completed, and the road is open. He stated they have to submit the paperwork to get the funding. Mr. Kirkland pointed out this project is 100% funded. The Acting Chair called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Request to approve items to be sold on GovDeals.

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to approve the items to be sold on GovDeals. Commissioner Battles seconded the motion. Acting Chair McClendon called for the question; and the motion carried unanimously. (Please see attached list in Minute Book)

Staff Reports:

Chief Administrative Officer

Acting Administrative Officer Nancy Bristow reported Mr. Dempsey and his staff were busy working on the budget. She stated the reports should be back in next week, and hopefully the process will move along.

County Engineer

Mr. Kirkland reported the FEMA representative came in to town last week and he is currently writing PW's on the sites. He stated he hoped to get some of them back this week. Mr. Kirkland reported he knew citizens were getting upset, but they are going through the process and he asked them to be patient because the county will fix these roads. Commissioner Harvey asked Mr. Kirkland to explain a PW. Mr. Kirkland reported it is a project worksheet and FEMA will have to write one on every site. He pointed out these go into detail about the scope of work, the amounts, materials needed, labor and equipment, and they also have to attach all of the environmental data to it. Mr. Kirkland reported these 6 or 7 sites have been pre-screened, and they should be okay. He reported that County Road #22 is open. He stated work would begin on the last ATRIP project, Forrester Road, the middle of next month.

County Attorney – there was no report

Adjourn

Commissioner Harvey made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Sinuefield seconded; and the motion carried unanimously.